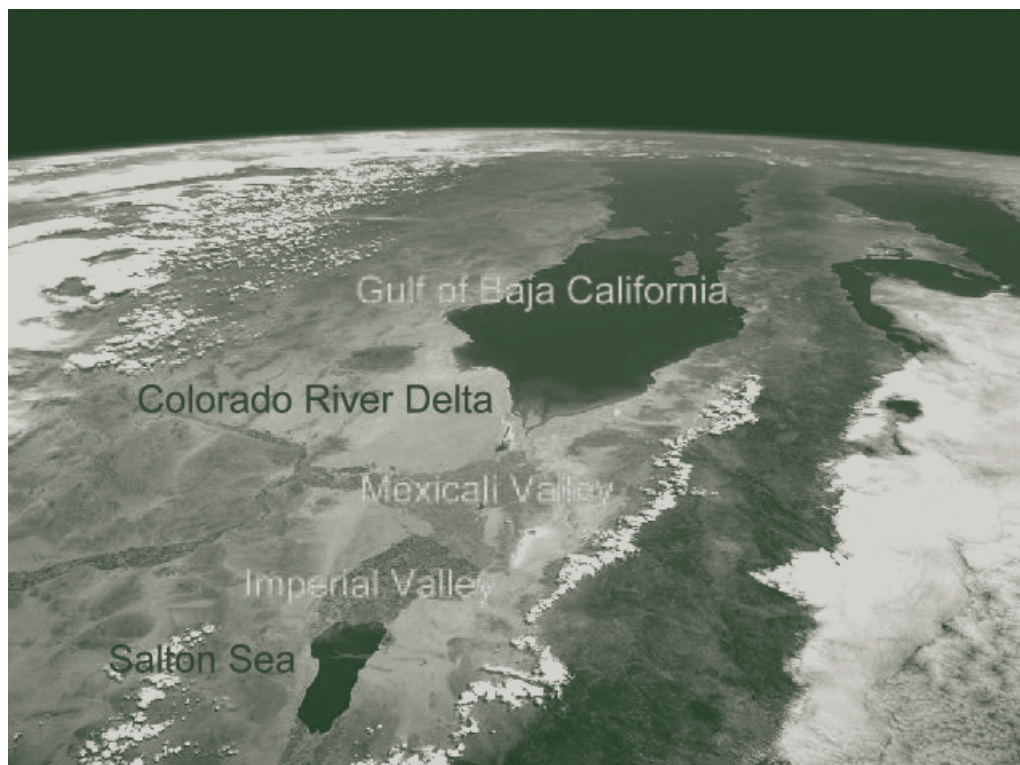


RURAL COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE CORPORATION





Rural Community Assistance Corporation

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HOW CAN WE ASSIST?

The Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting rural communities achieve their goals and visions by providing training, technical assistance and access to resources. Along with their partners, RCAC provides five core services to rural communities throughout the West.

FIVE CORE SERVICES OF RCAC

Capacity Development- RCAC works with the community to assess needs, develop potential solutions and select and implement the best plan. RCAC works with local leaders to strengthen facilitation, public speaking, strategic thinking and advocacy skills.

Access to Resources- RCAC staff helps identify funding sources and assists with financial packaging and funding applications. Since 1988, the RCAC Loan Fund has provided suitable and innovative solutions to the financing needs of rural communities. RCAC successfully leverages funds from various sources for rural projects. Offering both long and short-term financing, RCAC is a major lender for affordable housing, community facilities and environmental infrastructure.

Technical Assistance- RCAC offers technical assistance to supplement local agency capabilities in tackling community development projects.

Training- RCAC provides practical, task-oriented training on a variety of management and technical subjects. Training might be given to staff of a single agency or delivered at a conference attended by many agencies.

Advocacy- RCAC helps strengthen the effectiveness and presence of local communities with state and federal agencies. When rural communities and programs join together to coordinate efforts and share expertise, they are a formidable voice for rural issues.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AREAS

Housing- Nonprofit housing developers call upon RCA for assistance in developing, financing and operating affordable housing programs. RCAC assists with project feasibility, funding applications, selection and purchase of sites, project design, construction management and housing management.

Finance- As a certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), RCAC fills financing gaps and serves those traditionally neglected by conventional markets. RCAC offers a comprehensive array of products for development of affordable housing, environmental infrastructure and community facilities in rural communities.

Environmental- RCAC is one of the six members of the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP), one of the nation's oldest and most effective environmental networks. As part of this network, RCAC helps rural, small and tribal communities develop and maintain safe, affordable drinking water and wastewater systems and integrated solid waste services. RCAC provides educational material, training and technical assistance on such topics as utility operation and management, regulatory and compliance issues, maintenance, board responsibilities, project planning and financing.

RURAL COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (RCAP)

RCAP's mission is to help rural people to improve the quality of life in their communities. The RCAP network includes field-based staff and delegate agencies working at the community level in all 50 states and Puerto Rico, six regional offices with multi-state service areas and a national office located in Washington, D.C. RCAP staff is experienced community development and leadership trainers, management and financial system specialists, engineers, certified water and wastewater facility operators, environmental and solid waste program managers, rural housing experts, and health care providers. Many are fluent in a number of languages and dialects. This diversity allows RCAP to field teams of expert technical assistance providers and trainers to meet the specific needs of each community in which it works.

Rural communities or areas eligible for RCAP services are those with populations under 10,000. Most of RCAP's activities are carried out in rural areas with population of 2,000 or less, and in minority communities, underserved rural areas or rural areas with a high percentage of low-income individuals. RCAP's services are provided free of charge to these communities.

RCAP helps elected officials, utility owners and operators, community leaders and others living in rural communities to:

- access safe drinking water supplies;
- treat or properly dispose of wastewater;
- protect their groundwater supply and watersheds;
- plan and finance infrastructure projects;
- responsibly manage and operate community facilities;
- build leadership capacity in the community; understand state and federal environmental regulations and requirements; and
- develop a vision for the future in their communities.

With its roots firmly planted in rural America, RCAP is looking ahead. Over the next several years RCAP will continue to expand its current services to meet the growing demand for assistance, and will increase RCAP activities in rural housing, intermediary relending programs and economic development.

For additional and more detailed information regarding RCAC programs and services, please contact RCAC office or visit www.rcac.org.

